

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02959 220748Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 EB-07 AID-05 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 W
-----038471 220818Z /20
R 220537Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4361

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2959

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL SREF LE
SUBJ: REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AND GOL RELIEF POLICY

REF: BEIRUT 2910

1. AS NOTED REF, MEHDI SADEK, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF OFFICE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (OSD), REMARKED JUNE 17 THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 200,000 REFUGEES FROM SOUTH LEBANON. FOR THE RECORD, WE CONSIDER THIS FIGURE HIGHLY INFLATED.

2. GOL HIGH RELIEF COMMISSION (HRC) MEMBER, HESHAM AL HAJJ, TOLD US JUNE 18 THAT THERE ARE NO ACCURATE STATISTICS ON REFUGEES FROM SOUTH. HE ESTIMATED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 55,000 SUCH REFUGEES, BROKEN DOWN VERY ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS: A) 20,000 IN BEIRUT AND SUBURBS; B) 5,000 IN BIQA; AND C) 30,000 IN TYRE, SIDON AND OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH WHERE THERE IS NO FIGHTING.

3. DIRECTOR OF OSD'S OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION, NEMET KANAAN, TOLD US JUNE 20 THAT GOL CONSIDERED DISPENSING OF RELIEF SUPPLIES BETWEEN JAN 1 AND APR 14 TO BE "FIRST" MAIN DISTRIBUTION (SEE REF). SHE SAID "SECOND" MAIN DISTRIBUTION WOULD BEGIN AROUND JULY 1 AND END AROUND
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JULY 31, OR PERHAPS EXTEND INTO AUGUST. SHE ESTIMATED THAT THIS DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE TO ABOUT 750,000 PEOPLE.

4. KANAAN SAID NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON HOW TO PROCEED AFTER END OF SECOND DISTRIBUTION. HRC WAS, HOWEVER, NOW PRESENTLY LEANING TOWARDS LIMITING THIS DISTRIBUTION TO DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM SOUTH.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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